Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 02-03-06

Issued at King Salmon, Alaska January 18, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.

January 20, 2006

Expiration Date: June 30, 2006 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens a caribou registration permit hunt (RC 504) in the portion of Game Management Unit 9C north of the Alaska Peninsula Highway (the road between King Salmon and Naknek), west of the main stem of King Salmon Creek and Katmai National Park and south of the Alagnak River Drainage. Permits will be available only at the King Salmon ADF&G office and are available only to hunters who have not killed a caribou during the current regulatory year. Possession of a 2006 hunting license is also required. This emergency order does not alter any other caribou hunting regulations in Game Management Unit 9.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.025(3)**, **Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou (a)**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Open Season

(3)

Unit 9(C), that portion north of the Naknek River and south of the Alagnak River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

Units and Bag Limits

1 caribou by Tier II permit only; provided that the harvestable surplus, in combination with Aug. 10-Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)

the Remainder of Unit 9(C) and Unit 9(E), is 1,200 caribou or less, up to 1,500 permits may be issued, or Nov. 15-Feb. 28 (Subsistence hunt only)

if the department determines that Mulchatna Herd caribou have largely replaced Northern Peninsula Herd caribou, **1** caribou may be taken by registration permit only during a winter season between Jan. 20 and Mar. 31 to be announced by emergency order

Jan. 20-Mar. 15

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

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All other caribou hunting regulations in Unit 9 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

McKie Campbell Commissioner

By delegation to:

Lem Butler

Area Wildlife Biologist

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JUSTIFICATION:

The Alaska Board of Game authorized a winter caribou hunting season in this portion of Game Management Unit 9C when the Mulchatna Herd caribou have largely replaced the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd caribou in this hunt area. Currently there are 1,000 caribou from the Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) in the hunt area opened by this Emergency Order. The majority of caribou from the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd (NAPCH) are more than 25 miles south of the Naknek River. Movements of the NAPCH have been consistent with historical patterns that should continue to take the herd south, away from the hunt area. Given the current distribution of caribou in Game

Management Unit 9, it is unlikely that any caribou from the NAPCH could be harvested during this hunt.

This hunt is intended to provide additional opportunity for hunters to take MCH caribou in Game Management Unit 9C without jeopardizing the NAPCH. If caribou from the NAPCH cross the Naknek River, an immediate closure will be announced.